

REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application.

At the time of the outstanding Office Action, claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 15, 17, 18, 21, 23, 24, 28-30, and 33-36 were pending. By this Reply, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 8, 15 and 21, and has canceled claim 7. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 15, 17, 18, 21, 23, 24, 28-30, and 33-36 will remain pending upon entry of this amendment. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with appropriate status identifiers.

Amendments To Claims

By way of the present reply, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the features of canceled claim 7. Corresponding features have been added to the other independent claims, i.e., claims 8, 15, and 21.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 1, 3-4, 7-8, 10, 11, 21, 23-24, 28-30 and 33-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,175,917 to Arrow *et al.* (Arrow) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,447,901 to Sullenberger *et al.* (Sullenberger), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,657,531 to Bisbee *et al.* (Bisbee). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites:

A network comprising:

IPsec processing apparatuses, which use an IPsec (Internet Protocol security protocol) for encrypting and authenticating communications via the Internet between two different centers; and

an IPsec setting apparatus, which manages IPsec settings of the IPsec processing apparatuses,

wherein in response to receiving a request from a first IP processing apparatus to communicate with a second IPsec processing apparatus, the IPsec setting apparatus transmits a request to the second IPsec processing apparatus

and upon receiving a reply to the request from the second IPsec processing apparatus the IPsec setting apparatus transmits a common encryption key to the first and second IPsec process apparatuses to be used to encrypt and authenticate IPsec communications between the first and second process apparatuses;

wherein said IPsec setting apparatus generates SA (Security Association) parameters, to be used in the IPsec communication between the first and the second IPsec processing apparatuses, based on the contents of the request message and contents of IPsec policies stored by the IPsec setting apparatus;

wherein said IPsec setting apparatus sends a distribution message including the policies of said IPsec and the SA parameters in response to the request message; and

wherein the IPsec processing apparatus retransmits the request for communication to the IPsec setting apparatus and receives new setting information before a term of validity for the SA expires,

wherein said IPsec setting apparatus generates the common encryption key to be used in encryption and authentication of the IPsec communications between the first IPsec processing apparatus and the second IPsec processing apparatus and transmits the generated common encryption key to the IPsec processing apparatus.

Sullenberger and Arrow fail to disclose the features of claim 1, as amended.

Sullenberger merely discloses a general specification of an IPsec protocol. In order to realize an encryption by using an IPsec, a common encryption key is needed. Typically, an IKE (Inter Key Exchange) is used as an inter key protocol (IKE protocol). Sullenberger, for example, discloses an IKE module 124B in FIG. 2. Thus, Sullenberger merely discloses using an IKE on the basis of a general IKE process.

According to the claimed invention, the IP setting apparatus (server) generates a common encryption key to be used in encryption and authentication of the IPsec and distributes the generated common secret key to the IPsec processing apparatus. In this regard, claim 1, as amended, recites “said IPsec setting apparatus generates the common encryption key to be used in encryption and authentication of the IPsec communications between the first IPsec processing apparatus and the second IPsec processing apparatus and transmits the generated common encryption key to the IPsec processing apparatus.” Neither Arrow nor Sullenberger disclose that the IPsec setting server generates and distributes the generated

common secret key, and even if combined, do not disclose or suggest the feature of claim 1 of “said IPsec setting apparatus generates the common encryption key to be used in encryption and authentication of the IPsec communications between the first IPsec processing apparatus and the second IPsec processing apparatus and transmits the generated common encryption key to the IPsec processing apparatus.”

Bisbee fails to cure the deficiencies of Arrow and Sullenberger.

Independent claims 8, 15 and 21 have been amended in a fashion corresponding to claim 1, and are patentable for analogous reasons.

The dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as their respective independent claims, as well as for further patentable features recited therein.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by the credit card payment instructions in EFS-Web being incorrect or absent, resulting in a rejected or incorrect credit card transaction, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely

acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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